

His announcing skills began in New Mexico in 1964 with a Spanish radio show on Espa[ñ]ola's KDCE Radio, when he was a Los Alamos High School Senior. He later worked for KABQ Radio in Albuquerque, and KVSF in Santa Fe, before serving in the U.S. Navy between 1967 and 1969. In Cleveland, Ohio, he earned a First-Class Federal Communications Commission License in Engineering. In 1971, he joined Cleveland's local NBC affiliate, WKYC, where he grew in experience for six years.

In 1977, NBC Network News employed him for three years from the Latin American News Bureau based in Miami. In Florida, he covered assignments to India, Belgium, Teheran, as well as throughout Latin American countries, including Costa Rica, Panama, Nicaragua, Cuba, Peru, Columbia and many more.

During his seven years with NBC, Mr. Martinez also worked in the San Francisco and Boston NBC bureaus covering news events from the Pacific Northwest to Canada.

Mr. Martinez returned to New Mexico in 1985. He began working for the local ABC affiliate, KOAT-TV, as a reporter and weekday morning news anchor. In 1987, Mr. Martinez left for a weekend news anchor position with ABC affiliate WTNB-TV in New Haven, Connecticut. One year later he returned to New Mexico to become one of the principal weekday anchors on KOAT-TV. The rest, as they say, is history.

Throughout his years with the station, Mr. Martinez has helped Channel 7 build on its reputation as a station for credible and informative journalism. He insisted on the highest standards for the station. I know that he has also taken many younger reporters at the station under his wing and mentored them. He has offered advice and criticism to these KOAT. I know how much his colleagues and thousands of loyal KOAT viewers who invited him into their home daily will miss him.

On a personal note, I was touched by the emotion that Mr. Martinez displayed during the devastating Cerro Grande fire in 2000. He watched with disbelief as his old stomping grounds, filled with rich memories, burned to the ground. Trees turned to ash and homes vanished in the blink of an eye. He even wrote a beautiful poem about the travesty that comforted many of my constituents that had to endure the blaze.

What makes Mr. Martinez unique as a television journalist is the entertainment career he has managed to shepherd on the side. He is the singer on six mariachi CDs he has completed, and has appeared in some movies. He also served as host on a recent documentary exploring churches and missions throughout the nation. He also intends to work on a book about his memories of growing up in Chimay[oacute] that will offer advice for young people at the crossroads of life. As he told a reporter in July, "I thought, when I was growing up, that I was poor. As I look back, I choke up to think how rich I really was."

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in wishing Nelson and his family luck in all their future endeavors. His contributions to New Mexico cannot be understated and I am pleased to have been able to honor him here today. While Nelson and his lovely wife, Gina, embark on a new chapter in their life, I want them to know that New Mexico is and always will be their home. Nelson, thank you for your service and professionalism to New Mexico.

IN PRAISE OF THE LUTHERAN FELLOWSHIP ASSOCIATION OF THE SAGINAW VALLEY

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2002

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Lutheran Fellowship Association of the Saginaw Valley as it celebrates 45 years of dedicated service. Over the years, members have made numerous and significant contributions to Lutheran families and to the citizens of many communities in Bay County and elsewhere. They deserve our gratitude and praise.

In Bay County, the Lutheran Fellowship Association began when a handful of faithful Lutherans with a vision of creating a gathering place for families and friends joined together to open a fellowship hall. Since then, the group has grown to include more than 250 members and their families, serving the needs of thousands of Lutherans and others.

The LFA Hall has been a center of Lutheran life in our community for generations. Under the guidance of President Earl Wegener and other leaders past and present, it has continued to fulfill its mission as a venue for individuals, families, groups and organizations to enjoy fraternal, social, educational, recreational and family events of all kinds at a reasonable cost.

It is not a stretch to say that a large percentage of mid-Michigan's Lutheran community has likely attended one or more events at the hall during their lifetime, including wedding receptions, confirmation celebrations, anniversaries and a host of other activities. Many marriages have gotten off to a beautiful start with a reception at the LFA Hall and years later an untold number of couples have returned to the hall to commemorate their anniversary with family and friends.

In addition, LFA members have always put a high premium on charitable donations. Last year, they pooled financial resources to make a contribution to the victims of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attack in New York City. In other years, they have provided assistance to disadvantaged children or those afflicted with serious illnesses.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in praising the members of the Lutheran Fellowship Association for all that they do to meet the needs of the Lutheran community. Fellowship is an integral element in the Lutheran faith and the LFA has served a useful and vital role in fulfilling that need in Bay County. I am confident the LFA will continue to serve its members, their families, our community and our Lord well into the future.

HONORING ROY KIDD, LEGENDARY EASTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY HEAD FOOTBALL COACH

HON. ERNIE FLETCHER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2002

Mr. FLETCHER. Mr. Speaker, Eastern Kentucky University head football coach Roy Kidd is retiring at the end of the 2002 season. Kidd,

who is serving his 39th year as the Colonel's head coach, leaves Eastern Kentucky University after establishing one of the most successful college football programs in America.

His 39 years of coaching football at his alma mater, Coach Roy Kidd stands as a monument to his loyalty and dedication to the University, the game of football and to his student-athlete players and has set a high standard of excellence and reminded us what is best about college sports. All his victories, championships and honors only begin to reflect the impact he has had on Eastern Kentucky University, the Commonwealth of Kentucky, and beyond. It is his players, and their successes, who offer the best testament to Coach Kidd's unique ability to help young men make the most of their time here, and in their lives beyond ECU's campus.

Kidd has put together a I-AA football program acknowledged throughout the country, year in and year out, as one of the nation's elite. He has a produced 24 straight ECU teams with winning seasons and 29 consecutive Eastern teams with nonlosing seasons. There have been only two losing seasons at ECU in his 39-year tenure.

Along the way, his 38 Eastern Kentucky teams have won two NCAA I-AA national championships, two national runners-up titles and 16 Ohio Valley Conference championships. He has also directed Eastern Kentucky to 17, I-AA playoff appearances, the most by any school in the nation.

A native of Corbin, KY where he starred in football, basketball and baseball, Kidd chose Eastern Kentucky over the University of Kentucky under Bear Bryant's tutelage because ECU would let him play both baseball and football.

That decision set forth a legacy that is unmatched at all but one I-AA school and just five other programs in the history of college football.

In 1963, Kidd received the call from Eastern president, Dr. Robert R. Martin, offering him the position as ECU's head coach. 1964, Kidd's first at the helm of the Eastern Kentucky football program, produced just one of two losing seasons in the 38 years as follow as the Colonels went 3-5-1.

It only took Kidd and his staff four seasons to turn that around and produce an Ohio Valley Conference championship in 1967 that culminated with a 27-13 Grantland Rice Bowl victory over Ball State, which gave the Colonels the NCAA Mideast Regional Championship. He quickly followed that up the next season with a second OVC title as the Colonels went 8-2 behind quarterback Jim Guice and future American football League Rookie of the Year, wide receiver Aaron Marsh.

In between 1968 and the formation of Division I-AA by the NCAA in 1978, Eastern's teams produced winning seasons, collected two more conference crowns (1974 and 1976) and completed in the NCAA Division II playoffs in 1976.

ECU football's decade of the 80's arguably the most prestigious by any I-AA football program ever, produced seven conference championships, three trips to the NCAA title game with one remarkable 13-0 season that tended with the Colonel's second national title. Two other Colonel teams were eliminated in the national semifinals and a third Colonel squad made it to the quaterfinal round of the I-AA playoffs before losing.